

NORTH Vietnam

HEAVY U.S. LOSSES:

53

PLANES DOWNED
IN 4 DAYS

MANY AMERICAN
PILOTS CAPTURED

One of the 12 U.S. planes downed
over Hanoi on Nov. 19, 1967

VIETNAM

COURIER

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4th Year

SOUTH Vietnam

NEW SUCCESSES OF THE P.L.A.F.

**DAC TO : 1,160 Enemy Soldiers Put out of Action
in 3 Days (Nov. 17-19)**

**MY THO : A Battalion of U.S. Infantry Division 9
Wiped Out 85Km Southwest of Saigon (Nov. 17)**

TAN AN: A Battalion of Division 25 and a Company of Militiamen of the Puppet Army Routed 35 Km South of Saigon (Night of Nov. 11)

**RACH GIA : A Battalion of Puppet Division 9 Put
out of Action at Xoai
Xien (Night of Nov. 9)**

**LAM DONG: Two
Companies, Two Platoons, a Motorized Unit,
a 105mm-Gun Platoon and a "Civil Guard"
Platoon Wiped Out 7Km
from Djiring (Nov. 12)**



ANSWERS OF PRIME MINISTER **PHAM VAN DONG** TO QUESTIONS PUT BY OLIVIER TODD, SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE FRENCH PAPER LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR

DURING his recent stay in Viet Nam, a French journalist, Mr. Olivier Todd, special correspondent of *Le Nouvel Observateur* had an interview with Premier Pham Van Dong. Questions and answers are as follows:

Question — *Mr. Prime Minister, what do you think of the resumption of escalation in Hanoi itself?*

Answer — We foresaw it. We also foresaw other attacks. When U.S. aircraft come back, they will be well received.

Q — *What is your reaction to Mr. Goldberg's latest proposition to bring the problem of the Viet Nam war before the U.N.O.?*

A — We have always declared that the U.N.O. has nothing to do with the Viet Nam affair.

Q — *What is the fundamental reason for this attitude?*

A — We regard this body as a tool in the hands of the U.S.

Q — *Does the D.R.V.N. government still stick to the four points you put forward on April 8, 1965?*

A — Yes.

Q — *Why? The declaration by Mr. Nguyen Du Trinh, Foreign Minister of the D.R.V.N. on Jan. 1967, has triggered a much specious in Europe and elsewhere political debate on the meaning which should be given to the sentence: "If the U.S. really wants conversations, it must first of all put an unconditional end to the bombing and all other war acts against the D.R.V.N." There has been tentative interpretation of the word "unconditional". How should it be construed?*

A — This demand takes on its full meaning, its full value, when confronted with the threats, presented blackmail from the U.S. By all means it is trying to impose unacceptable conditions on us.

It has waged an unjust, criminal war on the D.R.V.N. This war has aroused deep indignation among almost all peoples of the world. Let the U.S. put an unconditional end to this war. No, we won't accept any conditions of any kind, in any form.

The Vietnamese people are a proud people. They will never negotiate under the bombs or threats of bombing.

Q — *What form should an "unconditional end" take?*

A — *What form could this "unconditional end" take? This question has its importance and must be carefully considered in due time. In any event, it must be clear, definite, unequivocal.*

Q — *Considering eventual negotiations, why do you stick so strictly to the "four points"?*

“(Continued page 2)

HEAVY U.S. LOSSES IN NORTH VIET NAM: 53 PLANES DOWNED IN 4 DAYS

NOVEMBER 17-20, 1967

VALIANT AND RESOURCEFUL DEFENDERS OF HANOI

NOVEMBER 17, 1967. The sky over the capital was cloudless.

At 08:00 hours, many flights of *F-105's* taking off from Thailand made a pass over the southern end of the city then from the southeast turned up for an attack run. Moments later, other *Thunderchiefs* from the northwest roared in. They resorted to the same old tricks. Many of them swooped down in a feint to draw our fire so that others could fly low and release rockets and bombs.

Nguyen Van Tho, deputy commander of a battery, called to his men, "Stick to our operational plan."

In perfect harmony, A-3 guns of all calibers stood around the city opened up, intercepting the air intruders at various altitudes. Two enemy planes burst into flames. Others quickly took evasive actions.

The enemy changed tactics. This time they bungled against our missiles. Hardly had one of them fired a rocket when our missile whistled skyward and cut its flight short.

11:00 hours. Enemy planes appeared again. They also made a feint to enable the strike to operate. They also cruised in wide circles then turned and fled. Finally, a flight of enemy planes passed over and wheeled down to confuse our gunners while another flight released bombs... Different enemy manoeuvres were countered in different ways. One after another, the air marauders crashed in flames amidst cheers of Hanoians.

A day of fierce fighting ended: 10 enemy planes had bitten the dust.

On Nov. 19, mist hung over Hanoi. News about fresh victories in Hai Phong just came in when enemy planes arrived. They sneaked into clouds and dropped radar disturbing objects.)

Huang Bat, leader of a missile unit, urged his men to keep their eyes skinned.

THE NORTH IS RESOLVED TO FIGHT AND TO WIN

**53 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN 4 DAYS
(NOVEMBER 17-20)**

ON November 17, 1967, the last day of carrying out the second U.S. aircraft conducted raids over Hanoi. The local armed forces and people dealt them a welcome blow: 10 planes were grounded and many pilots captured.

On the same day, with conventional infantry weapons, members of Kien Giang district, Hung Yen province, knocked out another plane. Meanwhile 2 more planes were shot down by the Hanoi Air Force, Quang Ninh, Vinh Phuc, Lang Son and Vinh Linh one each.

Countering Johnson's "4-day maximum pressure," the North Vietnamese armed forces and people shot down 33 U.S. aircraft and captured many U.S. pilots.

Nguyen Quang Hung, the missile guiding officer who had been cited for having knocked out the 2,500th U.S. plane over the North right in Hanoi's sky, calmly waited.

The first missile of the day whizzed up, followed by a din of explosions coming from other missiles and A-A units; two more planes fell.

11:45 hours. The defenders of Hanoi came into action again. The enemy came in strength but met with a stronger rebuff. One plane which looked the size of an egg got a deadly accurate hit and came apart in three pieces. Another plane exploded and immediately tumbled into a ball of smoke. Moments later, bits of metal were seen coming down. As for American pilots, some ejected from flaming planes, others suddenly emerged out of the clouds and slowly landed.

At 12:00 noon, the battle still lingers in the afternoon. All streets were brightly lit again. The whole city came out to greet the downing of 12 enemy planes in a single day, the 12th being the 29th kill over the capital.

AT FOOD PROCESSING FACTORY T.

ON Nov. 17 and Nov. 19, every time air intruders swooped down to strike at the factory, its self-defense corps opened up fiercely. The detachment led by the young engineer, Ngo Huy Duc, sent up a particularly intense fire. At first the platoon command did not allow him to take part in the fight. Finally, it was agreed in favor of the engineer's initiative. "I should have been on duty on Oct. 27. But Nguyen Dan Phien volunteered to replace me so that I could move my child into safety. That day Phien died because of me. You should not forbid me to fight to avenge him!"

Engineering Ngo Huy Duc, the gunner No 1 of the factory, was given satisfaction. Giving vent to his hatred, he fired in co-ordination with other defenders of the capital who brought the 29th kill over the capital.

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Between two battles, groups of technicians and workers of Factory T. were busy carrying the factory's products out.

Some used bicycles, others shoulder poles. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Yen, the Factory's manager, also joined the carrier line, two heavy loads fastened to her bicycle. The vice-manager, Tru, and some workers pulled a cart-load of goods.

In this job, virtually every worker of

wounded, pedicab-driver Nguyen Van Chan led his colleagues from a co-op in the district to move them to hospital.

The fire which erupted at blocks 60, 64 and 65 was quickly put down. Medical care was immediately given to the wounded. In this area, policeman Khuyen rescued Miss Thanh from a caved-in shelter. Miss Pham Thi Vinh,

TWO DAYS OF BRILLIANT VICTORIES IN HANOI



Defending Hanoi, A.A. Company No. 4, a "Unit Determined To Win," was striking at U.S. planes (Nov. 17, 1967)

MADELEINE RIFFAUD

the factory was assisted by husbands, wives, sweethearts or eldest sons or daughters who all worked for the factory with means of transport at their disposal.

Although the Factory had been hit by the enemy, no one liked to see it stop functioning, even for a day.

INHABITANTS OF THANH MAI HAMLET

THROUGH loudspeakers, an instruction came out, calling on the youth and militiamen to return to the hamlet to clear the aftermaths of the enemy raid, and urging the co-op farmers to resume their routine work. Thanh Mai hamlet next to Mo market, in the center of the city.

U.S. demolition and steel-pellet bombs and rockets killed or wounded a number of old people and children and destroyed many houses. Harvesting was in full swing. To suspend it and return home to clear the bombing afterwards? The inhabitants of Thanh Mai chose to act on the instructions of the village administration and militia command and the management board of the co-op.

That afternoon, teams of harvesters went to the ricefields earlier than usual.

bombs cut off the wire on the local public address system. Between two waves of enemy attacks, they quickly reconnect various lines. They did not reject their team until they heard through loudspeakers the announcement of the shooting down of 10 enemy planes over Hanoi. They then set to make iron sieves for the quick sifting of paddy.

At Mai Huang hospital, emergency rescue work was even more intense. Medical attendants and nurses of various departments concentrated their efforts on saving the lives of victims. From the woman doctor Thai Lan Thu and the assistant physician Nguyen Ngoc Khanh to nurses and other hospital attendants, all worked with might and main though enemy planes were still flying overhead. After he was informed that his mother-in-law had been killed by the Yankees, the assistant attendant, Mai, stayed on in his combat position. The nurse, Tri, did likewise although she learned that her child was wounded and her house destroyed by fire. In only half an hour, diagnostic and emergency rescue work was finished and the wounded were handed over to various departments for further treatment.

a young volunteer, immediately rushed in to save a wounded child while the stricken area was still strewn with delayed-action steel-pellet bombs. She fainted from exhaustion after having rescued 10 people. She came to five minutes later and continued her work, saving the people's property and combating fire.

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Up to Nov. 25, 1967

**2,600
U.S. PLANES
WERE DOWNED
OVER NORTH VIET NAM**

Will Hanoi Burn?

Over the last few days, the Paris press has carried many articles condemning the crimes committed by the Americans by resorting to steel-pellet bombs in Hanoi.

L'Humanité of October 30 published an article by Madeleine Riffaud praising the courage displayed by the Hanoi armed forces and people in their victorious battles against U.S. air raids. Following are excerpts from this article:

SINCE October 24, Hanoi has been confronting the bombers, day and night, with its missiles, its rifles, its mortars, its machine-guns.

It has successfully countered the most savage destructive and exterminating raids ever conducted by the U.S. force against the capital of the D.R.V.N. since the beginning of the escalation.

Will Hanoi burn? Knowing by experience the short-sighted cruelty of U.S. imperialism, every Vietnamese has been calmly expecting for months this eventuality.

... Will Hanoi burn? Johnson will never be able to get at the soul of Hanoi citizens who are ready to make any sacrifice in order to preserve the "most precious property: independence" and have plenty of means to produce and fight. If this city were razed to the ground this evening,

For five days, Hanoi, the "City of the Dragon" as it was called in the days of your founders, has fought against one hundred planes striking at times against rockets, pressure bombs and delayed-action steel-pellet bombs, against which American planes have been unable to exterminate and demolish. Striking a blow with its paws, the Dragon sent 35 U.S. planes biting the dust in 5 days.

... THAT was the reply of Hanoi citizens to the October wind, defending socialism at this most difficult moment. ... When will the mad men stop in their onwards flight?"

The bombings of Hanoi are a new, grave challenge hurled by U.S. imperialism at every human being, at all people, at all those who live in the city, who want to live a worthy life of men. Let us take up this challenge, with honour, by the side of those who transplant rice plants, who cultivate the land, and pupils in underground classrooms, of fighting physicians in the scorched jungle, of the youth of Hanoi and of the people of the city who are packed by their machines and their guns, and make guitars out of scraps of fighter-bombers,



EIGHT AMERICAN PILOTS AMONG THOSE NEWLY DOWNED

Left:

— Edward B. Burdett, U.S.A.F. colonel, U.S. tactical wing commander from Korat (Thailand).

— John Peter Flynn, U.S.A.F. colonel, deputy commander.

Right (left to right, top to bottom):

— William Denyer Key, U.S. Navy senior lieutenant — Claude Douglas Clover, U.S. Navy lieutenant-commander — Theodore Cerdard Stier, U.S. Navy lieutenant junior grade — Paul Henry Schulz, U.S. Navy lieutenant junior grade — James E. Teague, U.S. Navy lieutenant junior grade — Walter O. Estes II, U.S. Navy lieutenant junior grade.



VIET NAM COURIER

VIET NAM COURIER

THE SOUTH VIET NAM N.F.L. ORDERS THE SUSPENSION OF MILITARY ATTACKS ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMING FESTIVALS

ALTHOUGH the South Vietnamese armed forces and people are winning big victories in Loc Ninh, Dac To, Phuoc Binh, My Tho, Ben Tre, Rach Gia, Binh Thuan, Quang Nam, Quang Tri, Thua Thien and other places, the Presidents of the C.C. of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. have ordered the suspension of military attacks for 3 days on the occasion of Christmas, for 3 days on the occasion of New Year's Day and for 7 days on the occasion of the Tet or Lunar New Year Festival. A statement from the South Viet Nam President says:

"...At the previous time, prompted by the unchanged humanitarian policy and its respect for the time-honoured customs and habits of our nation and other countries and out of deep consideration for the legitimate feelings and aspirations of our people, of the peace of the world and the interest of the majority of the puppet, U.S. and satellite armymen, the Presidents of the C.C. of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. decides to suspend military attacks against puppet, U.S. and satellite troops.

"...Our people have always and consistently expressed deep attachment to humanism and the goal of struggle is nothing but a decent life, the rights of man, the right to shape our own destiny, the right to live in independence and freedom. Since the U.S. aggressors are very obdurate, brutal and inhuman nature, all the people and armed forces must be fully prepared with a high spirit and an iron determination, to fight stubbornly and unrelentingly. Only by so doing can we win really big victories in the current Winter-Spring campaign and advance to-

wards complete success in the struggle of our entire nation against U.S. aggression, for national salvation."

SOUTH VIET NAM P.L.A.F. COMMAND'S ORDER

Strict implementation of the decision of the Presidents of the C.C. of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. for the suspension of military attacks on the occasion of Christmas, New Year's Day and the Tet Festival, the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. Command orders:

1. All P.L.A.F. across South Viet Nam (comprising the main forces, the regional troops and the guerrillas and militia) to suspend military attacks:

— for 3 days on the occasion of Christmas from Zero hour on December 24, 1967, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Dec. 24, 1967, Saigon time) to Zero hour on Dec. 27, 1967, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Dec. 27, 1967, Saigon time);

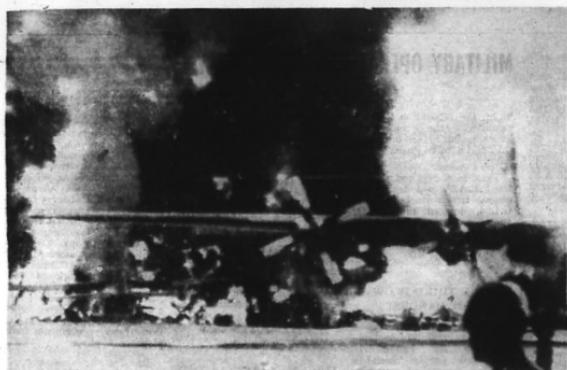
— for 3 days on the occasion of New Year's Day from Zero hour on Dec. 30, 1967, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Dec. 30, 1967, Saigon time) to Zero hour on Jan. 2, 1968, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Jan. 2, 1968, Saigon time); and for 7 days on the occasion of the Tet or Lunar New Year Festival from Zero hour on Jan. 27, 1968, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Jan. 27, 1968, Saigon time) or the 28th of the 1st lunar month, to Zero hour on Feb. 3, 1968, Indochina time (or 01.00 hour on Feb. 3, 1968,

Saigon time) or the 5th of the first lunar month.

2. All P.L.A.F. have the responsibility to protect the people so that they can enjoy these festivals in security and joy, and to create conditions for armymen and the personnel of the Saigon puppet administration to go home to their homes, with their families, pay tribute to the members of their ancestors and visit their relatives. Troops of the U.S., those of its satellites and those of the Saigon puppet administration will be free to go to church and take part in activities during Christmas, New Year's Day and the Tet, either at home or at public gatherings, provided that they go individually, not in groups, and do not carry weapons and intelligence devices.

3. During the enforcement of the suspension of military attacks, all military attacks, military actions by aircraft and ground troops against the South Viet Nam P.L.A.F. and people, including activities of aircraft and guns of various types, in whatever part of South Viet Nam, will be regarded as violations of the N.F.L. order and subject to punishment.

4. The P.L.A.F. throughout South Viet Nam must strictly observe the order for the suspension of military attacks in the period and the conditions defined above. At the same time, they must constantly increase their vigilance and due retaliatory blows should the enemy violate the stipulations of this order, and resolutely punish those reactionary and cruel agents of the U.S. who dare disrupt the normal activities of the people on these festive occasions.



Dac To
airfield set
afire

southwest of Saigon) was cut off in 80 places, some of which became ready flat fields of eight to ten metres long. Hundreds of road blocks were erected. Thousands of metres of telephone wire were cut off. Numerous tanks and rollers near An Hau township were destroyed. 7 M113 armoured cars were destroyed or damaged. Many posts were attacked, including an encampment of one battalion of puppet Division 7 at My Thien. On July 23 the highway was still cut off. Most of the U.S. forces attempted to clear it but was put out of action along with 11 armoured cars.

Driven into the defensive, on July 25 the enemy made a probing thrust into Phu Phong village on the Mekong river, 17km west of My Tho. A big vessel was sunk and an American transport plane wiped out by the guerrillas.

On July 26, 20 battalions (6 battalions of U.S. Infantry Divisions 9 and 25, 9 battalions of puppet Division 7, 2 battalions of Marines, 3 battalions of Rangers) and 4 squadrons of armoured cars attacked the north and south of the highway. With support of over 300 war vessels, 100 planes and 32 heavy guns.

In the north, the secondary target of the raid, the My Tho armoured and self-inflicted upon the enemy severe losses. In the south, which bore the brunt of the "sweep," they dealt the enemy heavy blows.

On the morning of July 29, a convoy of naval craft coming from the Mekong river was intercepted at Can Cam. Five boats, full of U.S. puppet troops were sunk or set afire. A helic和平 rescue party was also intercepted. Another reinforcement from Long Trung lost the company in the lead and one H.U. 1A ferry to Tan Hung (50 km

SINCE LAST SUMMER - AUTUMN

MILITARY OPERATIONS ON HIGHWAY No 4 , A BRILLIANT VICTORY OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM P.L.A.F.

HIghway 4 linking Saigon with the provincial town of Mekong Delta is a strategic road. Early in 1966 the American aggressors threw in two brigades of the 1st Infantry Division (one stationed at Rach Gia, Cho Lon province), and the other at Ben Duc (My Tho province). Like the G.I.'s at Ben Dian, those at Ben Duc also suffered heavy casualties at the hand of the

guerrillas.

In the first half of 1967 alone, 1,220 U.S. troops were killed and wounded in the battles near Ben Duc. The enemy tried to launch many operations in an attempt to break the encirclement around Ben Duc and the posts along Highway 4.

The operation carried out by 10 U.S.-puppet battalions in the first 19 days of May

ended with over 900 casualties (among them 450 G.I.'s), 6 planes downed and hammering a craft and 3 military vehicles destroyed. This was the first blow dealt at the aggressors.

A HARDER BLOW

ON July 8, 1967, the My Tho armymen and the people of the region carried out attacks on "key pacification" areas along Highway

4, destroying many "strategic hamlets" and hammering a craft and blow at the enemy's defense there.

On July 17, they continued their assault and held the highway for three days.

Nearly all the enemy's communication lines in the province were stormed. On Highway 4 alone, the 10 km long section from Ben Dinh ferry to Tan Hung (50 km

dropped a QD brigade and a battery of M-101 howitzers. From Long Tien, Tam Binh and Phu Quy (Continued page 7)